

## SENATE—Thursday, May 13, 1999

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Pastor Lonnie Shull, First Baptist Church, West Columbia, SC.

We are very pleased to have you with us.

### PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Pastor Lonnie Shull, First Baptist Church, West Columbia, SC, offered the following prayer:

*God be merciful to us, and bless us; cause Your face to shine upon us.—Psalm 67:1. Gracious Father, we praise You today. You have blessed America, and we are so thankful. You have made us the greatest Nation on Earth. Accept, O Father, our sincere gratitude. May we be a gracious demonstration of the freedom and opportunity, righteousness and justice, You desire for all nations.*

I pray that You will empower our Senators with Your wisdom. Give them, I pray, a divine vision for the United States of America. May they be given double portions of courage, honesty, and humility as Your dedicated servants. Save us, I pray, from the enemies who would destroy us. Deliver us from internal strife, selfish arrogance, and moral disintegration.

Today, we especially pray for those who serve this Nation in our Armed Forces overseas. Keep them safe in Your loving care and bring them safely back to their homeland soon. Help us to reach out in love to our fellow citizens whose lives have been devastated by violence and by storms.

O God, please bless America and keep her true as You have kept her free. We ask these things in the name and the authority of the Prince of peace. Amen.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able chairman of the Judiciary Committee is recognized.

Mr. HATCH. I thank the Chair.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. HATCH. This morning the Senate will resume consideration of the juvenile justice legislation. Pending is the Hatch-Leahy amendment with a vote to take place at approximately 9:40 a.m. Following the disposition of the Hatch-Leahy amendment, Senator HOLLINGS will resume debate of his tel-

evision violence amendment with 2 hours of debate remaining on the amendment, with the time for a vote to be determined. It is hoped that significant progress can continue to be made on this important legislation. Therefore, Senators can expect votes throughout today's session of the Senate.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAPO). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### VIOLENT AND REPEAT JUVENILE OFFENDER ACCOUNTABILITY AND REHABILITATION ACT OF 1999

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume consideration of S. 254 which the clerk will report.

The legislative assistant read as follows:

A bill (S. 254) to reduce violent juvenile crime, promote accountability by rehabilitation of juvenile individuals, punish and deter violent gang crimes, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Hatch-Leahy amendment No. 335, relating to the availability of Internet filtering and screening software.

Hollings amendment No. 328, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require that the broadcast of violent video programming be limited to hours when children are not reasonably likely to comprise a substantial portion of the audience.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to add Senator MCCAIN as a cosponsor of the Hatch-Leahy amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HATCH. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative assistant proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have my full 5 minutes as previously reserved.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the Hatch-Leahy amendment is a good one. I hope everybody will support it. I have

talked for years about empowering users of the Internet to control and limit access to material they did not want to see and that could be found on line. This could be any type of material. Parents may not want their children buying things. There may be obscene material. It could be types of sites parents are against.

We also know there is a lot of amazing and wonderful material on the Internet. While I oppose efforts in Congress to regulate content of the Internet, I do want to make sure children can be protected, that parents have the ability to do that, and this gives them a chance to do it.

I have always believed the power to control what people see belongs to the users and the parents, not the Government. The amendment the chairman and I offer requires large on-line service providers to offer their subscribers filtering software and systems to stop objectionable materials from reaching their computer screens. I am supportive of voluntary industry efforts to come together and provide Internet users with one-click-away information resources on how to protect children when they go on line. Senator CAMPBELL and I joined Vice President Gore at the White House last week to hear about this one-click-away amendment. Our amendment helps promote the use of filtering technologies. It is better than Government censorship. It is a fall-back provision, if the companies do not do it themselves.

### NOTE FROM SENATOR SASSER

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I wonder if my distinguished friend from Utah will indulge me. I ask unanimous consent for 1 minute to read a note that I just received from our former colleague, Senator Sasser.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, many of us served here with Jim Sasser, the very distinguished former chairman of the Budget Committee, now our Ambassador to China at a very difficult time.

We have seen the photographs of Ambassador Sasser under siege in the Chinese Embassy. I faxed him a note the other day, saying how proud I was, and I mentioned the comments of many Senators saying how proud they were, of his grace under fire and the fact that he would not leave the American Embassy that is under siege. When there were Embassy staff there, in the true and best tradition of the State Department and the Senate and the Marine